

Ann Morgan

From: vtsdmailer@vt-s.net on behalf of Renzoni5@Verizon.net <vtsdmailer@vt-s.net>
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 6:12 PM
To: Planning Department
Subject: ZBL 2016-1: Proposed Change to the Zoning By-Law: Medical Marijuana

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Public Hearing Comment Form

Submitted from the Town of Grafton website on Monday, March 7, 2016 - 6:12pm **MAR 8 2016**

Submitted by user: Anonymous

**PLANNING BOARD
GRAFTON, MA**

Submitted values are:

Choose a Project: ZBL 2016-1: Proposed Change to the Zoning By-Law: Medical Marijuana First Name: Pamela Last Name: Renzoni Email Address: Renzoni5@Verizon.net Street Address: 7 Jordan Terrace

City: North Grafton

State: Massachusetts

Public Comment Disclaimer: I have read and understand the Public Comment Disclaimer
 Comments:

Dear Planning Board,

I would like to take the chance to give some input into your March 8th joint meeting with the Selectmen pertaining to possible zoning for recreational marijuana. As we were all caught off guard with gaps in our zoning bylaws with medical marijuana, it seems some pro-active thoughts towards recreational marijuana will go a long way to safeguarding "delicate" areas in our community.

Some of the "delicate" areas in my opinion include:

1. The Community Business area within walking distance of our High School/Middle School. This area should be considered a "delicate" area.

On any nice weather day, you'll find enormous amounts of young people walking & socializing in the areas of the Common, Swirls & Scoops, Dunkin Donuts and Pepperoni Express. It is with these areas of heavy youth traffic that discretion in allowing a recreational marijuana shop should be taken.

Far too many kids are left to wander until late in the afternoon, giving ample opportunity for mischief.

2. Areas where children congregate. A firm definition of "areas where children commonly congregate" should be included in the zoning definitions.

The State's definition leaves much to be desired in terms of the many scenarios where children can congregate. Would a pediatric dentist count, would a music lesson studio count, a place that host children's parties, a school bus stop, a place where Scouts meet? Clearly, just stating "areas where children commonly congregate" is inadequate.

3. The liquor stores in any business area. In the many discussions surrounding the medical marijuana dispensary, it was noted by many that a liquor store is far more dangerous. Given this seems to be the view of many residents, it would be prudent to adopt ample zoning buffers for areas where liquor stores are located. As I previously discussed with Joe Laydon, 1000' buffer at minimum would be a start. It's important to not locate too many risky businesses in any one area and create a less than family friendly atmosphere.

4. Places of worship. I would hope the Town gives our places of worship a nod of respect by significant zoning buffers for areas where recreational marijuana shops can operate. Although there are few areas which abut or are near places of worship, I would hope a thorough look at vulnerable areas would occur.

5. Medical marijuana dispensaries. Reasonable zoning buffers should be proposed for areas where medical marijuana is sold. As with liquor stores, there is risk involved with people using product upon leaving an establishment. I would think allowing several like businesses would compound the danger for neighborhood residents & traffic in these areas. Thought should be given to significant zoning buffers.

Pam Renzoni